



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 FEBRUARY 1965

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1. Vietnam

No major Chinese or North Vietnamese military moves have been noted. For the first time in several days, there have been no new anti-US pronouncements from the principal Communist capitals involved.

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Small-scale Viet Cong harassing activities have remained at a high level for the past few days, but no new large actions have been reported.

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A government operation is in progress in Phuoc Tuy against the Viet Cong units which took part in the Binh Gia engagement at the end of December.

New Premier Quat has rounded up a largely civilian cabinet, which General Khanh has described as the "best that can be fielded at the present time." The cabinet appears balanced as to regional and religious representation. While there is no assurance that it will not come under attack from the Buddhist Institute, some Buddhist leaders have indicated that they might be able to work with Quat.

2. Honduras

Hondurans go to the polls today.

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3. France

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4. Turkey

Turkey plans to rotate its contingent on Cyprus late this month or early next month. No specific date has been set, but the Turks clearly expect that President Makarios will back down and allow the rotation to go through without trouble. The Greeks have urged this on Makarios, but the archbishop has not yet tipped his hand.

In Ankara, Suat Hayri Urguplu, a former ambassador to the US and a non-party man, has been asked to form a caretaker government until the October elections.

5. USSR

The USSR is negotiating another wheat deal with the Australians which will bring the total from this source to nearly 1.5 million tons. Moscow has already bought 500,000 tons from Canada and 250,000 tons from France.

These transactions are still far short of the 12 million tons purchased last winter. They indicate, however, that Moscow means to take advantage of present low prices to build up depleted stockpiles.

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6. Congo

Today, Congolese Army units near the Ugandan border reported themselves under attack by "Ugandan soldiers." Initial messages are fragmentary and confused. We know, however, that Ugandan units were sent to this area after the alleged bombing of a Ugandan border post Saturday. The Ugandans have been building this incident into a cause celebre, and tempers are running high.

There is still no confirmation that the bombing actually took place, but

Ugandan outposts in the area believed-- and reported--that they had been bombed. Embassy Kampala believes that the Ugandan version is substantially correct.

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